



The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region Rolls Out Red Carpet for Second Annual Sprout Film Festival



Sprout Film Festival promotes the acceptance of differences through the art of film by profiling real life stories of people with developmental disabilities.

[Aberdeen, MD] August 19, 2014 –The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region (The Arc NCR) will host its second annual Sprout Film Festival on Friday, November 14 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Harford Community College, in the Dr. James F. LaCalle Conference Room E132. Tickets to the Sprout Film Festival are \$10 per person and can be purchased in advance by phone at 410.836.7177, online at www.arcncr.org or at the door. All proceeds will benefit The Arc NCR.

The Sprout Film Festival features a series of short films that highlight, star and share different perspectives on people living with autism, Asperger’s syndrome and Down syndrome, as well as other disabilities. For the festival, the Harford Community College will be transformed into the site of a movie premiere, complete with red carpet activities that will be announced at a later date.

“The Arc NCR is committed to helping the community understand, engage with and celebrate individuals with disabilities,” said Julie Chmura, The Arc NCR’s development director. “The Sprout Film Festival offers an engaging and compelling view into the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and demonstrates they can display amazing talent – just like anyone else.”

The Sprout Film Festival was founded in 2003 and enables agencies throughout the United States and Canada to plan and host their own film festival in order to better educate the public on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Representing Sprout at the local event will be the group’s

Film Program Coordinator, Harriet S. Yaffe. She has close ties to Maryland, having served as the Executive Director of The Arc of Southern Maryland for 15 years.

The Arc NCR's Sprout Film Festival will offer an hour and a half of short films ranging from a music video to a 25 minute documentary. The program includes the award-winning official selection of the 2014 National Sprout Film Festival, "For the Love of Dogs." This short film is an inspiring, heart-warming story told through the eyes of Cory, a brilliant and talented 11 year-old boy with Asperger's Syndrome. Follow Cory's journey from the National Dog Show to Westminster, and witness how a boy's passion for dogs has opened up his communication with the world around him.

Sponsorships are welcome and still being accepted; please contact Julie Chmura at 410.836.7177, ext. 350 or jchmura@arcncr.org to become an event sponsor. For more information on The Arc NCR, visit www.arcncr.org or to learn more about the Sprout Film Festival, visit www.sprouttouringfilmfestival.org.

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About [The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region](#)

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region offers a wide variety of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, both children and adults, in Harford and Cecil counties, to make informed choices with their lifestyles, vocations, education and recreational pursuits, and to assure stable and nurturing lives among their families and friends.

About [Sprout](#)

The Sprout Film Festival was founded in 2003 and is programmed and supported by Sprout, a NYC-based non-profit organization dedicated to bringing innovative programming to people with developmental disabilities. For additional information, visit www.gosprout.org.

Photo Caption:

For the Love of Dogs PHOTO2: A scene from the 2014 National Sprout Film Festival award-winning film, "For the Love of Dogs."